

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes**

December 1, 2005
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Vice Chair Glenn Hawes called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of voting members present (underlined).

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	(Jane Dolan)	<u>Shirley Lewis</u>	
Colusa	<u>Gary Evans</u>	<u>Ben Carter</u>	
Glenn	(Denny Bungarz)	<u>Don Anderson</u>	
Shasta	<u>Glenn Hawes</u>	<u>Dan Gover</u>	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	<u>Russell Young</u>	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	(Duane Chamberlain)	(Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency			<u>Jim McKevitt</u>
Cal DWR			Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USF&WS			Ken Sanchez
USCOE			Brandon Muncy
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

SRCAF: Manager Burt Bundy, Assistant Ellen Gentry, Resource Conservation Assistant Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other identified attendees: Dan Efseaff, River Partners (RP); Shannon Holbrook, US Fish and Wildlife (USF&W); Kelly Moroney, USF&W; Vickie Newlin, CA Bay Delta Authority (CBDA); Les Heringer, M&T; Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance (FWA).

2. Unscheduled matters

Ken Sanchez introduced Shannon Holbrook, Safe Harbor Coordinator for the Conservation Partnership Program at USF&W, Sacramento. Shannon took Robert LaFleur's place.

Ben Carter read from a statement he had written, discussing landowners' assurances and SRCAF collaboration with local concerns. He had suggested at the July Board meeting that SRCAF create a crisis so landowner concerns will be addressed, but suggested that this organization has not done that. He also indicated that he had been misquoted at the July meeting, but was not specific. Ben requested the SRCAF Board withdraw support of restoration until agencies come before the table to address concerns. Ken Sanchez noted everyone in attendance willing to work with him. Ben objected that private landowners cannot apply for the working landscapes grant. Jim McKevitt stated that CVPIA can go to private entities, or landowners can group together as a non-profit and apply. Glenn Hawes noted he and Dan Gover chose to do it privately. Jeff Sutton shared Ben's concerns, the need to create a crisis and attention, and suggested marrying a Safe Harbor with incentives. Diana Jacobs requested copies of Ben's statement so it can be put on an agenda. Ron Warner and Jim McKevitt also expressed a chance to review the document. Jim also requested concrete examples of what isn't working. Lady Bug Doherty commented there is nothing to vote on now and suggested a time frame. Jim McKevitt commented there would be no solution by a time frame. Vickie Newlin volunteered to

work with Ben and Jeff to write letters to Ryan Broddrick (USF&G) and Wayne White (USF&W), reiterating and asking for feedback in writing. Burt emphasized it should be Ben and himself. Glenn Hawes maintained using proper procedure. Discussion ensued regarding Safe Harbor, Section 7, compliance with laws and misconceptions.

Burt reviewed the July Board direction to craft a proposal for the CalFed ERP Working Landscapes grant with the Executive Committee's assistance; and the PowerPoint presentation that was given regarding landowner issues and benefits of a proposal that could include a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement, including program review and tracking. He noted that projects are not proposed by us, but that we address impacts and try to make changes that fit with neighbors and improve projects that come before the Board. He added that the mechanism to address landowners concerns is through regulatory assurance (Safe Harbor) for protection from incidental take of endangered species, and having a role in providing technical support and facilitating a suite of programs to make it worthwhile for landowners.

3. Consent Calendar

Don Anderson moved to adopt the minutes of the October 20, 2005 minutes and to accept the Executive Committee meeting notes for the October 20, 2005 and November 17, 2005 meetings, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Agency Reports – Project updates:

Burt presented Gregg Werner's PowerPoint presentation on the Colusa Subreach update. He indicated that the study was now concentrating on technical investigations of issues that had been suggested by the public and recommended by the Advisory Committee. A site visit was held last month and several members attended. The next meeting is Jan 9th.

Les Heringer, M&T, gave an update on M&T Llano Seco Pumping Plant interim solution of stone toe and brush revetment. They want to drape visquene on the bank if the project can't be done before March, to protect against further erosion. Funding now is for feasibility. Les stated that a mitigation bank for projects like this would be good because of permitting expense and time constraints. Burt and Les re-iterated the SRCAF's support of this project.

Lady Bug Doherty reported on Hamilton City by announcing that the Reclamation Board and CBDA have signed the funding agreement. Burt added the Preliminary Engineering and Design (PED) was signed by state agencies and is now in general services for 30 days. It is anticipated to be out before Christmas, at which time the Corps will sign. \$250,000 is in the federal budget thanks to Congressman Wally Herger and Senator Dianne Feinstein. Meetings for the preliminary design are expected to begin in January. Brandon Muncy, US Army Corps of Engineers, noted a project manager is assigned and can outline a timeline in January or February. Brandon added there is a chance of recovering last year's PED by taking a look at schedule capability and seeing if money is available for reprogramming. The SRCAF will facilitate a Workgroup meeting in January.

Diana Jacobs reported DWR has convened with the Corps, Rec Board, and F&W (among others) regarding permitting of flood control maintenance. CSP is being looked at to tag onto. Vickie Newlin, CBDA, added website links are available. CBDA inherited the ecosystem program from CalFed. The Hamilton City budget, formerly in CBDA, is now in USF&G. Diana stated negotiating water is ongoing using the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) program of the Department of Fish and Game for authorizing funding from different water users.

Vickie Newlin, CBDA, stated that tomorrow the ten year action plan will be mailed out to CBDA members, discussed Wednesday, and voted on Thursday. Items will be solidified regarding changes in governance, refocusing priorities, multi-year program plan funding, and

focusing on the delta. She added input was also provided from a workshop last Tuesday. The administration is taking a new direction.

5. Working Landscapes PSP Update

Burt gave an update on the PSP including technical assistance and administrative help to provide a suite of programs to landowners to make it worthwhile. The Landowners Workshop this summer identified incentives that could be grouped together, and with technical assistance from the SRCAF, provide tangible benefits to participating landowners. Under consideration are pilot and demonstration projects that work with private and other entities to look at conservation banks along the river to develop mitigation credits. Regulatory assurances, probably through a Safe Harbor Agreement, will provide another important component of the proposal. Stacy added that the TAC has been investigating species and areas to be covered. Beverley stated this PSP is developed almost exclusively from the LEGACI and Landowner Assurances Committee strawman conceptual model. Burt added the strawman is the backbone which does get to landowner issues. The SRCAF, looking at the riparian area, is working closely with RCDs, which look into wetlands. The timeframe for application is December 15.

6. Board Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report and Board Development Committee - Notices were sent out to individual Board of Supervisors' offices for SRCAF Board appointment letters. The nominating committee is working on a slate of officers for the January meeting's election of officers. Chair appointments will also be recognized. For recommendations, contact Burt or Jane Dolan, Board Development Committee Chair.

TAC-Stacy reported on the last TAC meeting November 1, 2005. Current projects and updates included Big Chico Creek, Llano Seco Conservation Easement, and the Brayton Unit. Cross Boundary information, an interim analysis of threatened and endangered species, will arrive with PSP information.

Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary – a presentation on the Llano Seco Phase II Environmental Compliance and Design (2006) has gone before the TAC and the Board and a letter of support was requested. Ben Carter stated a letter would be inconsistent with his earlier request. Gary Evans agreed. Kelly Moroney added public meetings have previously been held. Dan Gover moved to send a letter noting Llano Seco Phase II was presented as information, Don Anderson seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Future Meeting Dates

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 1:30PM, January 19, 2006. The Board meeting will follow at 3:00PM. The following Board meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2006.